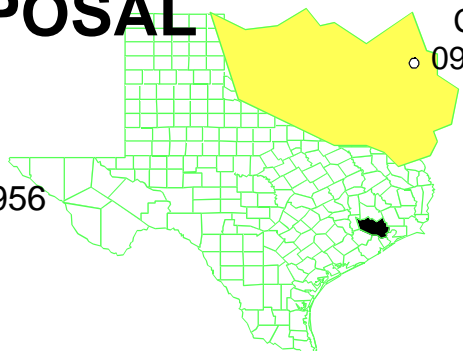


SIKES DISPOSAL PITS TEXAS

EPA ID# TXD980513956



EPA REGION 6
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Harris County

Updated: 06/22/00

Site Description

- Location:** ! The Site is located about two miles southwest of Crosby, immediately north of old U.S. Highway 90, and roughly 20 miles northeast of Houston, Harris County, Texas.
- Population:** ! Approximately 10,000 people reside in Crosby and the surrounding communities.
- Setting:** ! The distance to the nearest residence and nearest drinking water well is 1,000 feet.
! The Site comprises approximately 185 acres.
! Evidence of uncontrolled waste dumping was found throughout the Site.
! The Site is bordered by the San Jacinto River on the west, Jackson Bayou on the north, and old U.S. Highway 90 on the south.
- Hydrology:** ! The Site is characterized by river alluvium overlying Texas Coastal Plain deposits.
! Shallow water-bearing zones occur in the alluvium.
! A second water producing zone is found in a sandy silt zone of the Coastal Plain Deposits at about a 65-foot depth.
! The Chicot and Evangeline Aquifers occur below this zone, beneath several hundred feet of clay.
! The Site lies within the 100-year floodplain of San Jacinto River.

Wastes and Volumes

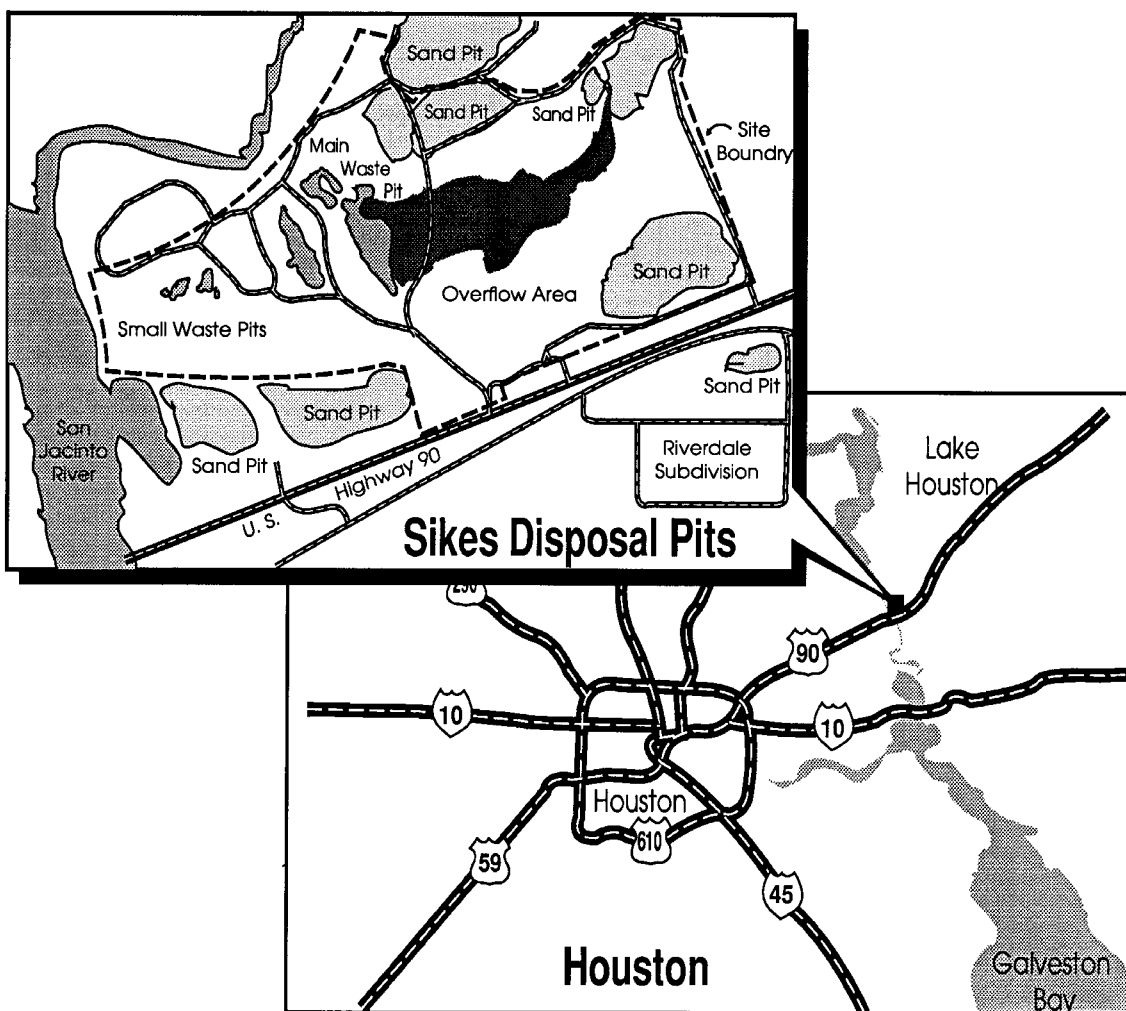
- ! A wide variety of organic and inorganic wastes were deposited indiscriminately at the Site.
- ! Waste volumes at the Site were approximately as follows:
- o 350 million gallons contaminated ground and surface water;
 - o 496,254 tons of organic sludge and contaminated soils; and
 - o 2000 drums of mixed waste.

Site Assessment and Ranking

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Site HRS Score: 61.62
Proposed Date: 10/23/81
Final Date: 9/08/83
NPL Update: No. 1

Site Map and Diagram



The Remediation Process

Site History:

! In the early to late 1960's a variety of chemical wastes from the area petrochemical companies were disposed in on-Site unlined sand pits.

! Site operation conducted until early 1967, when the facility closed.

! Wastes contained organic chemicals and heavy metals (such as arsenic, mercury, cadmium, chromium and lead).

! In June 1983, the EPA removed approximately 40 cubic yards of phenolic tars and sand, and land filled the wastes to an off-Site hazardous waste disposal Site. The pit was then backfilled and covered with clean sand.

! In September 1986, the Record of Decision for the Site was signed that called for incineration of Site wastes.

! During March and April 1988, the EPA fenced the Site.

! In July 1989, the EPA repaired fences due to flooding, and to deny access to children who were apparently using the Site as a playground.

! Remedial Action construction bids were first solicited by the State in September 1989, but the EPA instructed the State to cancel them because they were noncompetitive (only one contractor submitted a bid of \$137 million - nearly 150% of the ROD).

! The second, revised, Request for Proposal resulted in four valid bids ranging from \$91 million to \$99 million; IT-Davy's low bid was accepted in June 1990.

! Incineration of one billion pounds of contaminated soils was completed in June 1994.

Health Considerations:

! Possible human health problems could be caused by contact or ingestion of Site contaminants.

! Fishing and hunting activities occur routinely around the Site.

Other Environmental Risks:

! Surface water and ground water were contaminated.

! The Site is in the floodplain and is frequently inundated.

! A large area of a sludge overflow extended eastward from the main waste pit.

Record of Decision

Signed: September 18, 1986

! The Record of Decision (ROD) for the Sikes Disposal Pit Site called for onsite incineration of sludge and soils, and treatment of contaminated water; this was accomplished in two phases.

! In the first phase (October 1990 through January 1992), the Site was prepared for remediation, including construction of flood control structures, installation of a temporary incinerator, and construction of a water treatment facility.

! During the second phase, all wastes were incineration eliminating the threats to human health and the source of contamination to the ground water; removal of treatment facilities and Site restoration were completed in 1994.

<u>Other Remedies Considered</u>	<u>Reason Not Chosen</u>
1. "No Action"	Too great a threat from the Site, needs action
2. Off-Site landfill for RCRA sludge	Does not protect ground water
3. On-Site landfill	Does not protect ground water
4. Off-Site incineration	Too costly
5. Cap & slurry wall problems	Flooding would cause cap integrity

Community Involvement

- ! Community Involvement Plan: Developed 8/83, revised 12/87.
- ! Open houses and workshops: 1/88, 1/89, 10/90 (TWC), 2/91, 1/92, 11/92
- ! Proposed Plan Fact Sheet and Public Meeting: 8/86
- ! ROD Fact Sheet: 9/86
- ! EPA Milestone Fact Sheets: 1/83, 7/86, 9/86, 1/90, 4/90,
- ! TWC Milestone Fact Sheets: 12/89, 5/90, 9/90, 12/90, 12/93
- ! Commemorative event in 1995 with TNRCC to announce completion of the cleanup.
- ! Citizens on the Site mailing list: 287
- ! Constituency Interest:
 - * This was a high profile Site; moderate/mixed citizen interest.
 - * Community issues included concern with air emissions from the incineration remedy and a fear that the incinerator would become a permanent installation and accept wastes from other Sites.
- ! Site Repository: Crosby Public Library, 135 Hare Road, Crosby, TX 77532

Technical Assistance Grant

- ! Availability Notice: 4/88, re-advertised 8/17/90 and 8/31/90
- ! Letters of Intent Received:
 - 1) Environmental Relief Committee (ERC) - 4/25/88 (withdrawn)
 - 2) Barrett-Crosby Civic League (BCCL) - 8/21/90
- ! Final Application Received: BCCL - 8/26/91
- ! Grant Award: 3/4/91
- ! Current Status: The grant was not used; the EPA withdrew the grant - closed 1998.

Contacts

- ! **Remedial Project Manager (EPA):** Earl G. Hendrick, 214-665-8519,
Mail Code: 6SF-AP
- ! **State Contact:** (TNRCC) Diane Poteet, 512-239-2502, Mail Code 143
- ! **Attorney (EPA):** Anne Foster, 214-665-2169, Mail Code: 6SF-DL

- ! **State Coordinator (EPA):** Karen Bond, 214-665-6682, Mail Code: 6SF-AP
- ! **R6 Ombudsman (EPA):** Arnold Ondarza, 214-665-6790, Mail Code: 6SF

Enforcement

- ! **PRPs Identified:** 11
- ! **Viable PRPs:** 10
- ! Cost recovery is being pursued.

Present Status and Issues

- ! Incineration is now finished, the incinerator facilities have been removed and the Site has been planted with local grasses.
- ! The preliminary Close Out Report documenting completion of construction activities was signed in January 1995.
- ! The final Close Out Report is issued and Site deletion should occur in 2000.
- ! O&M began in 1996, second year ground water monitoring was conducted in 1997.
- ! Third year ground water monitoring was conducted in 1999.
- ! Fourth year ground water monitoring started in February 2000 and will be completed by August 2000.
- ! The second Five Year Inspection Report should be issued in late 2000.

Benefits

- ! Removal actions and fencing the Site reduced imminent threats from the Site, and discouraged access to the Site by local children.
- ! 496,254 tons of contaminated soil and sludge, and 350 million gallons of contaminated water were treated through the incineration remedy.